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SALAMANDERS AND NEWTS

Black-spotted Stout Newt

Pachytriton brevipes

Pachytriton brevipes is a stout, smooth-skinned and fully aquatic salamander of 14-19 cm from clear, cool and fast-flowing mountain streams in south-eastern China. It is medium to dark brown with many black spots and a broad, oar-like tail. It is territorial and aggressive and requires cool, oxygen-rich water.

Family: Salamandridae Published 16 November 2026 **Mild skin toxins**

KEY FACTS

THE ANIMAL

Adult size	**14-19 cm** total length incl. tail
Lifespan	**9-15 years**
Active	**At dusk and at night**
Lifestyle	**Aquatic**
Habitat	**Montane forest and wetland**
Skin toxins	**Mild** Wash your hands after contact and keep your fingers away from your eyes and mouth
Difficulty	**Intermediate**

CARE

Min. enclosure	**60 × 30 × 35 cm** L × W × H for 2 adults
Temperature, day	**14-18 °C**
Temperature, night	**12-16 °C**
Humidity	**70-90%**
Water	**Aquaterrarium** depth 20-25 cm
Water temperature	**14-18 °C**
UVB	**Not required**
Diet	**Insects, vertebrates and worms/snails**
Kept	**Singly or in groups**

BREEDING

Reproduction	**Egg-laying**
Development	**Larvae in water**
Egg-laying site	**In water**
Eggs per season	**40**
Larval period	**80-110 days** from hatching to metamorphosis
Larval diet	**Small aquatic invertebrates (daphnia, mosquito larvae)**
Parental care	**Guards the eggs**

PROTECTION AND PAPERWORK

CITES	**Not listed**
EU annex	**Not listed**
IUCN	**Least Concern (LC)**

Care at a glance

THE ENCLOSURE	Little is known about the husbandry of *Pachytriton brevipes*, and much of what has been written about the genus is based on trade animals whose species is not certain.
TEMPERATURE	The water is kept below 18 °C, and 21-24 °C is tolerated briefly; longer in warm water affects health.
HUMIDITY AND MISTING	Humidity plays no role for a fully aquatic animal. In a closed aquarium it is high by itself; the box's 70-90 % is an estimate. Make sure the air above the water does not become stagnant and warm.
WATER AND WATER QUALITY	The water must be clean, oxygen-rich and moving. A powerful filter (canister filter, undergravel filter or internal filter) is necessary; sponge filters and air stones are less effective and require more frequent water changes.
LIGHTING AND UVB	UVB is not necessary. The animals live in shaded streams, and the light should not be bright. The lighting can be set according to any plants, and direct sun is avoided because it heats the water.
FEEDING	The animals are voracious and eat worms, insects, frozen red bloodworms, beef heart, fish, dry food in pellets and small amounts of lean meat.
BEHAVIOUR AND HANDLING	*Pachytriton brevipes* is territorial and aggressive. In nutrient-poor streams food becomes scarce, and the animals therefore defend an area against conspecifics.
NATIVE RANGE	China.